(DGR) and called for interview and appointed in autonomous bodies based on the above registration in DGR are eligible for all the benefits as that of the Ex-PBOR re-employed in autonomous bodies through securities agencies sponsored through DGR; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Those ex-Personnel Below Officers' Rank (PBOR) who are sponsored by Director General Resettlement (DGR) to autonomous bodies, on their employment get pay and allowances as are admissible under the rules of the respective autonomous body. The pay and allowances drawn by ex-PBOR through security agencies are in conformity to what is applicable to semi skilled labour notified through State Government Gazette notification as applicable.

Guidelines on Defence purchases

1588. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has laid down strict guidelines on evolving a time-bound system for scrutiny of Defence purchases;

(b) whether it is a fact that Defence purchases are delayed over the years in normal course;

(c) in what way, would Government ensure that Defence purchases are made on a strict time-bound system;

(d) whether it is also a face that some Defence suppliers deliberately ensure that delays occur in such matters; and

(e) the steps proposed to adhere to the new rules of time-bound purchases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Defence Procurement Procedure-2002 (Version June, 2003) lays down steps to be followed for procurement of weapons, equipment, systems, etc. under Capital Head. It has not been possible to lay down a uniform timeframe for completion of different activities relating to defence acquisitions in view of the complexities of the equipment/weapon system being procured, denial of technology in critical areas for indigenous manufacture, restricted nature of defence industry etc. In addition, there

may be delay on account of extensive trials of the equipment/weapon/system in varied terrains and climatic conditions, position taken by vendors during commercial negotiations, delay/denial of export licence to the vendor by the Government of his country etc.

Steps to secure release of missing soldiers of 1965 and 1971 wars

1589. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that War Widows Association, through a demonstration, drew the attention of the Government to the missing soldiers of 1965 and 1971 wars;

(b) what is the number of soldiers reported missing for each of the two wars; and

(c) whether Government has renewed its efforts to secure release of these soldiers from Pakistan and/or trace them if they are not in the custody of Pakistan Government, if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No such incident has come to the notice of the Government in the recent past. However, a certain number of Prisoners of War are believed to be in the custody of Pakistan.

(b) The number of soldiers reported missing during the two wars are given below:—

(i)	1965 War	—	01
(ii)	1971 War	—	255

(c) As per extant policy on the subject, the soldiers missing during the 1965 and 1971 wars are presumed to be dead. However, Government, through diplomatic channels, has been consistently taking up the issue of the early release and repatriation of the Prisoners of War believed to be in the custody of Pakistan. The matter was also raised during the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to New Delhi in November, 2004. It was also discussed during the Foreign Secretaries discussions on December 27, 2004. Pakistan has not acknowledged the presence of these prisoners of war in its custody.